The specific incentives for Licensees are :—

—Licences of longer duration of 30 years in the first instance and subsequent renewal[5] of 2 years instead of 2 and 10 years respectively as it was before.

—Higher rate of return of 5% in place of the previous 2% above the RBI rate.

—Capitalisation of Interest During Construction (IDC) at actual cost (for expansion projects also) as against 1% over RBI rate as it was before.

—Special appropriations to meet debt redemption obligations.

An Investment Promotion Cell has been set up in the Ministry of Power to provide information and assistance to prospective entrepreneurs in the electricity sector and take timely action for time bound clearances of the proposals.

Percentage of Transmission Loss to Production

1552. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of transmission loss of power vis-a-vis the generation plant-wise/State-wise ;

(b) what measures Government propose to take in reducing this loss ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the electricity bills are not realised to the power supplied in certain towns due to heavy thefts ; and

(d) if so, what are the names of such towns, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) A statement indicating the transmission & distribution losses as a percentage of energy available for supply for various State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments and the country as a whole from the year 1987-88 to 1991-92 is enclosed at Annexure-I. Plantwise T & D losses are not feasible to collect as power supply distribution may be from different generating stations/plants [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure 41].

(b) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued by CEA to the Power Utilities for reducing T & D losses. These include inter-alia, conducting of energy audit for identifying the system elements responsible for excessive losses, installing capacitors to improve the voltage profile, preparation of system improvement schemes for strengthening & improvement of the systems, installing tamper-proof meter boxes, intensifying surprise raids and launching prosecution against the persons found indulging in theft of energy. The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence from Aug., 1986 under the provisions of Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. An Incestive Scheme was also introduced by the Government of India among the State Electricity Boards, Electricity Departments etc. from the year 1987 for bringing about reduction in the transmission & distribution losses.

(c) In terms of provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, it is the prerogative of the State Electricity Boards/State Govts. to supply electricity to different categories of consumers and realisation of revenue therefor in various towns/cities of the respective States. In order to check the theft of energy, the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 was amended in 1986 making theft of energy cognizable offence. Guidelines have been issued to all State Electricity Boards/Elecy. Deptts. in the regard.

(d) Since the theft of electricity is a universal phenomena in India, no specific name of any city/town in the country can be mentioned in isolation.

Production of Thermal Power Plants

1553. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of Thermal Power Plants under construction/consideration ;